

REMARKS

Claims 1; 2; 3; 14; 15; 16; and 17 have been amended. Claims 11 and 12 have been canceled.

Claims 1 to 10 and 13 to 23 remain in the application. Of these, claims 1 and 2 are the sole independent apparatus claims. Method claims 15 and 16 have been made dependent upon claim 1 and 2, respectively.

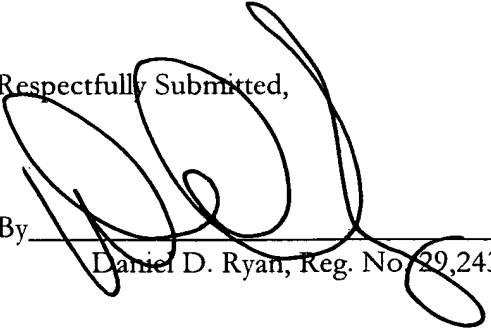
Independent system claims 1 and 2 have been amended to define an ultrasound application that includes a transducer that includes a radiating surface, a coupling region including a coupling media for the transducer, and a well region. The well region surrounds the radiating surface and is located at a higher gravity plane than the radiating surface to collect air bubbles forming in the coupling media. The presence of the well region oriented in this manner minimizes localized skin surface heating effects. Support for this subject matter is found, e.g., on Specification pages 16 to 18.

Neither Talish et al (U.S. Pat. No. 6,432,070), nor Peterson et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,126,619), nor Winder et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,520,612) teach or suggest an ultrasound applicator that includes a transducer including a radiating surface, a coupling media for the transducer, and a well region surrounding the radiating surface and being located at a higher gravity plane than the radiating surface to collect air bubbles forming in the coupling media to minimize localized skin surface heating effects.

Claims 1 to 10 and 13 to 23 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Respectfully Submitted,

By


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